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It would be a valuable contribution to commercial literature, if some competent person would perform a similar service for each of the principal textile fabrics and mechanic arts.

2. — *A Hundred Years Ago: an Historical Sketch. 1755 to 1756.* By JAMES HUTTON. London: Longman, Brown, Green, Longmans, and Roberts. 1857. Post 8vo. pp. 405.

THE design of this historical monograph is to bring together, from various contemporary publications, such characteristic facts and descriptions as shall present an accurate picture of the social life of England in the middle of the last century. In the execution of this design Mr. Hutton has been less successful than we had hoped. His arrangement is good; but his facts, though often curious and striking, are generally drawn from works which are easily accessible, and many of which may be found in any good private library. For scholars and critics, therefore, his volume offers little that is new; but the general reader will find in it many interesting details, and will easily derive from it a very correct idea of the condition of England at the close of the reign of George II. It is divided into six sections. Of these the first three, which fill rather more than half of the volume, are the least interesting and valuable. The first section extends through a hundred and forty pages, and merely presents a sketch of the principal events in the political history of England for the two years to which Mr. Hutton confines his survey. Following this, we have two chapters describing Miscellaneous Events in Great Britain, and in the Continental countries, including an account of the great earthquake at Lisbon. The third section is the least satisfactory part of the book, although it professes to treat of the "Men of the Day, and what they were doing a Hundred Years ago." In the space of fifty pages it embraces notices of Gibbon, Goldsmith, Smollett, Johnson, Voltaire, and other literary men of the period, a curious list of books and pamphlets published at the time, and some familiar anecdotes. The next section describes the Dark Side of Society, including under this designation the press-gang, footpads, public informers, and other persons of disreputable life. From them we pass to the Frivolous Classes and their Frivolities, and are entertained with a humorous but rather coarse description of the women of fashion and the men of the town. The next section is devoted to an account of the popular Amusements and Pastimes, — the various exhibitions, theatrical performances, places of entertainment, fashionable dances, and public disquisitions, which relieved the tedium of daily life. The last section

gives us Glimpses of Society, and embodies such miscellaneous facts and extracts as do not properly fall under either of the preceding heads. Thus we have notices of the then recent improvements in London, of the style of living, the amusements at Bath, the clubs, electioneering expenses, the means of travelling, and the manner of advertising. From this brief summary it is easy to perceive how wide a range Mr. Hutton takes in, and how much that is new to many readers such a volume must contain.

- 3.—*British India, its Races, and its History, considered with Reference to the Mutinies of 1857: a Series of Lectures addressed to the Students of the Workingmen's College.* By JOHN MALCOLM LUDLOW, Barrister at Law. Cambridge [England]: Macmillan & Co. 1858. 2 vols. 16mo. pp. xvi. and 319, 390.

THE history of British India has been often written, and the recent mutiny of the Sepoys has afforded an opportunity for the publication of numerous pamphlets and larger works upon the general subject of the British government in the East. But most of the works of real value upon this fruitful theme are published at a price which places them beyond the reach of a large class of readers. It is with the view of rendering the information scattered through various elaborate volumes accessible in a cheap and compact form, that Mr. Ludlow has published these Lectures, originally prepared at the request of the students of the Workingmen's College. He does not appear to have had any personal acquaintance with the subjects of which he treats, or to have made any original investigations. But he tells us in his Preface that he is "connected with India by almost innumerable ties"; and he has made good use of the labors of his predecessors. His Lectures excited so much interest at the time of their delivery, that he was immediately requested to repeat them; and in the printed copy he has made large additions to them. He has divided his work into three parts. The First Part consists of five Lectures, covering about a hundred pages, and treats of the geography, climate, and products of India, and of the different races and religions there brought in contact. In dealing with these intricate questions Mr. Ludlow exhibits considerable familiarity with Eastern mythology; but it must be confessed that his strength does not lie in the discussion of theological doctrines. The next eleven Lectures form the Second Part of his work, and are devoted to a history of The British Rule in India, beginning with the rise of the East India Company, and closing, with a discourse upon The Lessons of the Past, at the return of